SUMMARY

In a case of thrombocytopenic purpura complicated by bizarre mental and neurological changes and by hemolytic anemia, the possibility of thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura should be considered. This is particularly true if the course is febrile and stormy and the skin is *cafe-au-lait*. The diagnosis may be established by appropriate examination of bone marrow or by biopsy of the skin or muscle tissue.

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Nasal Myiasis

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IN THE SUMMER of 1953 an entomologist doing research work at Port Barrow, Alaska, used the aspirator method of collecting small insects. Two months later he began to have severe intermittent fever, shaking chills, frontal headaches, profuse sweats, and pronounced general malaise. These symptoms continued for about four days. A physician who was consulted at the time felt that the patient had an infection of influenzal type. Shortly thereafter, the patient spat a large number of insects that came down from the nasopharynx. These were four major groups of insects (Coleoptera, Collembola, Diptera, and Hymenoptera). The insects included three adult rove beetles (Staphylinidae), 13 fungus gnat larvae (Mycetophilidae), three egg parasitic wasps (Mymaridae), and about 50 spring-tails (Collembola).

Upon physical examination at that time a rather profuse mucoid discharge from the left nares was noted and there was reddening throughout the nasopharynx. X-ray films of the sinuses demonstrated punctate densities in the left antrum, both peripherally and centrally.

Irrigations of the left antrum were carried out and the material washed out was preserved in 95 per cent alcohol and studied microscopically. In it were many insect fragments that were identified as follows:

Order	*Family*	*Species*
1. Collembola	Isotomidae	Isotoma Olivacea Tullberg*
2. Coleoptera	Staphylinidae	Micralymna brevilingue Schiodte*
3. Diptera	Mycetophilidae	Boletina birulai (Lundstrom) †
4. Hymenoptera	Mymaridae	Mymar species*

*Adult, †Larvae.

There are two aspects of unusual interest in this case. First, none of the insects reported have been previously shown to cause myiasis in man. Second, it may be assumed that infestation occurred because of the aspirator method for collecting small sized insects, which is commonly used by entomologists.

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